

Annual Report
OF THE
SANITARY CONDITION
OF THE
Crowle Urban District
FOR THE YEAR 1905,
BY
ARCHIBALD A. HAMILTON,
L.R.C.P., L.R.C.S., ED.,
Medical Officer of Health.

CROWLE :
ISLE OF AXHOLME PRINTING COMPY., LTD., HIGH STREET.

—
1906.

Annual Report of the Sanitary Condition of the Crowle Urban District for the Year 1905.

MR. CHAIRMAN AND GENTLEMEN,

I beg to submit to you my Annual Report of the Sanitary Condition of your District during the year 1905, together with Tables of Infectious Sickness and Mortality as required by the Local Government Board.

Acreage 5,197.

Population.

I estimate the population of the District in the middle of 1905 at 3,000, the same as last year, the birth and death rate not varying much. Last year there were 90 births and 55 deaths. This year there were 91 births and 52 deaths.

Vital Statistics.

There were 91 births registered during the year—males 44, females 47. This is equal to a birth rate of 30·3 per thousand of population. Of this number there were only two illegitimate (males), very little more than 2 per cent. This compares favourably with last year, when it was 7·7 per cent.

The birth rate for Rural England and Wales in 1905 was 26·3.

Deaths.

Forty-eight deaths were registered in the District; and four residents died in Thorne Union Hospital, making in all 52, and is equal to a mortality rate of 17·0 per 1,000 of population. This compares favourably with last year when it was 20·3 per 1,000.

The natural increase during the year, that is the excess of births over deaths, was 39. Last year the excess was 29.

One death was uncertified, and one inquest was held. The certificate of the Coroner was consumption of the bowels and pericaiditis.

7·6 per cent. of the total mortality occurred in children under 5 years; and 30·7 per cent. occurred in persons of 65 and upwards. Six persons died at the advanced age of 80 and upwards.

Infant Mortality.

The deaths of infants under one year were 14 in number, 6 less than last year. This is equal to a rate of 153·8 per 1,000 births. This compares favourably with 1904, when it was 222·2.

Diarrhoea only accounted for one death. Premature birth and debility caused 6 deaths.

Zymotic Mortality.

Ten deaths were certified under this head, viz: Whooping Cough, 1; Diphtheria, 6; Diarrhoea, 1; Enteritis, 1; Erysipelas, 1. This gives a zymotic mortality rate of 3·3 per 1,000 of population.

Phthisis.

Consumption caused the death of 5 persons, same as last year. This is equal to a rate of 1·6 per 1,000 of population.

Bronchitis and Pneumonia.

Six deaths were due to these, all from pneumonia. Last year there were 2 from bronchitis and 2 from pneumonia.

Heart Disease.

Eight persons died from this disease, as compared with four in the previous year.

Cancer

Caused the death of 4 persons, as compared with 2 last year.

Infectious Diseases (Notification Act) 1889.

Thirty-two notifications of infectious illness were received during the year, as compared with 13 the previous year, viz.: Diphtheria, 29; Enteric Fever, 3.

The cases were distributed throughout the year as follows:—

<i>DIPHTHERIA.</i> — <i>March</i>	<i>April</i>	<i>May</i>	<i>June</i>	<i>July</i>	<i>September</i>	<i>October</i>	<i>Deaths.</i>
2	3	1	5	3	11	4	6
<i>ENTERIC FEVER.</i> — <i>January</i>	<i>September</i>	<i>December</i>	<i>Deaths.</i>				
1	1	1	0				

Diphtheria.

The first case occurred in a house in the Market Place. The surroundings were dirty, with stagnant water, etc., lying about in the yard. At the Board School insanitary conditions were found to exist, such as the tank containing drinking water being in close proximity to the water closet. There was also a cesspool and privies and drains much too near a well, the water of which was used for drinking purposes.

All this insanitary state of matters has since been rectified.

I have no doubt but that a number of the cases of diphtheria were caused by this state of matters, as well as one of the cases of enteric fever.

I consider the spread of the disease to have been caused by the patients not being at once isolated, but allowed to mingle too soon with others, there not being as yet an Isolation Hospital in the Urban District.

I am informed that the Council are negotiating with the Isle of Axholme Rural Council for acquiring and equipping an Adjoint Isolation Hospital.

Enteric Fever.

Three cases were notified, one in January. In this case the disease was contracted elsewhere and brought here. The second case in September broke out in a house in close proximity to a dirty drain. The third case in December was contracted at school through drinking contaminated water.

The insanitary state of matters at the Board School is now put on a satisfactory basis.

Water Supply

Is principally from wells, but most people use rain water, and the well water is principally used for cleansing purposes. Several wells which were considered defective have been closed by my orders. The well in the Market Place, which is the principal supply for the town, contains very few bacteria, and the subsoil thoroughly purifies the water ; and I consider it good water for ordinary domestic purposes.

Drainage.

As this district is so very flat, the drainage question is a difficult one ; but, so far as the public drainage goes, it is good. Whenever any defect or want is found, it is at once attended to, and the general drainage of the town is increased every year.

Sewerage.

I learn from your Inspector of Nuisance's Report that one cesspool has been abolished ; that the six slaughter houses and four lodging houses have been periodically lime-washed ; infected cottages were fumigated ; two private wells have been cleaned, and 20 yards of private drains cleaned ; and 100 yards of 6 inch private sewers, and 20 yards of public sewers 12 inch laid ; and about 50 yards of 6 inch also laid ; 8 new privies and ashpits have been built, and 15 old ashpits, &c., covered in. Those ashpits that are still open will soon be attended to.

Excrement Disposal.

The Council, I understand, are considering contracts for the regular removal of the contents of ashpits and closets.

Slaughter Houses and Lodging Houses

Have been periodically visited and inspected, and found in a good condition.

Houses.

Two new houses have been built.

Factory and Workshop Act, 1901.

There are 9 workshops, 11 work-places, and 4 home-workers' premises. As regards cleanliness, ventilation, and provision of sanitary convenience, they are in a good sanitary condition, and no defects found.

I am, Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

ARCHD. A. HAMILTON,

Medical Officer of Health.